

Amend the following claims:

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1. (Amended) A barrier assembly for protecting [an edge of] a loading platform, the loading platform having a loading edge and a personnel entrance distal from [,] and substantially parallel to the loading edge, the barrier assembly comprising:

a pair of parallel guide rails, each shaped generally as an inverted-U, each having a first substantially vertical portion, a second substantially vertical portion opposite the first substantially vertical portion and a substantially horizontal portion interconnecting the first and second substantially vertical portions;

or
a first gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the first gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails;

a second gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the second gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails; and

at least one substantially rigid first cross-bar pivotally connected between the first and second gate segments;

the first gate segment being guided by the pair of guide rails from a barrier position in which the first gate segment is positioned entirely within the first substantially vertical portions of the pair of guide rails to an open position in which the first gate segment is positioned at least partially in the substantially horizontal portions of the pair of guide rails;

the second gate segment being guided by the pair of guide rails from a barrier position in which the second gate segment is positioned entirely within the second substantially vertical portions of the pair of guide rails to an open position where the second gate segment is positioned at least partially in the substantially horizontal portions of the pair of guide rails; and

the first cross-bar having a length which requires that when the first gate segment is in its barrier position the second gate segment will be in its open position, and vice-versa.

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Amendment

✓ Claim 9, line 3, between "are" and "approximately", insert --adapted to be--.

✓ Claim 10, line 3, after "are", insert --adapted to be--.

✓ Claim 11, line 2, between "are" and "approximately", insert --adapted to be--.

✓ Claim 13, line 3, between "are" and "approximately", insert --adapted to be--.

✓ Claim 18, line 1, delete "an edge of".

✓ Claim 18, line 2, replace "from," with --from--.

✓ Add the following new claims:

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18. A barrier assembly for protecting a loading platform, the loading platform having a loading edge and a personnel entrance distal from and substantially parallel to the loading edge, the barrier assembly comprising:

a pair of parallel guide rails, each shaped generally as an inverted-U, each having a first substantially vertical portion, a second substantially vertical portion opposite the first substantially vertical portion and a substantially horizontal portion interconnecting the first and second substantially vertical portions;

a first gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the first gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails;

a second gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the second gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails; and

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a segmented cross-bar pivotally coupled between the first and second gate segments, the segmented cross-bar including a plurality of substantially rigid cross-bars pivotally coupled together in series, each pivotal coupling between the substantially rigid cross-bars including a roller that is received within and guided by one of the guide rails.*

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--20. A barrier assembly for protecting a loading platform, the loading platform having a loading edge and a personnel entrance distal from and substantially parallel to the loading edge, the barrier assembly comprising:

a pair of parallel guide rails, each shaped generally as an inverted-U, each having a first substantially vertical portion, a second substantially vertical portion opposite the first substantially vertical portion and a substantially horizontal portion interconnecting the first and second substantially vertical portions;

a first gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the first gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails;

a second gate segment having at least one pair of rollers positioned on opposite lateral sides thereof, each roller being received within a respective one of the guide rails so that the second gate segment is guided by the pair of guide rails; and

at least one substantially rigid cross-bar pivotally connected between the first and second gate segments, the cross-bar being movable to and away from the first and second substantially vertical portions of the guide rails, thereby permitting the first and second gate segments to be guided, at least partially, into the substantially horizontal portions of the guide rails.--